

PROCLAMATION *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!* DAY OCTOBER 14, 2004

WHEREAS, quality after school programs engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, after school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills, and support working families by ensuring that their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and

WHEREAS, such programs help build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our children, grounded in the principle that quality after school education programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Extended School Network is working with partner organizations throughout the state to promote the importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 14, 2004, *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!* DAY in the state of North Dakota.

/s/ John Hoeven Governor

Attest:

/s/ Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State